(v) Government has been supporting Anti-Piracy Campaign of NASSCOM include (i) Strict implementation of Code of Conductor for member companies of NASSCOM, (ii) Distribution of brochures and stickers explaining about "Software Piracy and the Law", (iii) Anti Piracy Billboards, Hotline for piracy complaints.

(vi) The market competition has also been instrumental in reducing the costs, thus making the products affordable and hence bringing down the piracy. The introduction of software services is another step towards countering piracy.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) As per statistics available with National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), the number of arrests made during the period January 2006 to June, 2007 is 9649. This information was presented during the 3rd meeting of Copyright Enforcement Advisory Council (set up under MHRD) held in October, 2007.

Wages in BSNL

2893. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of casual labours and contract workers that are engaged in BSNL;

(b) the amount of wages paid to them; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to increase their wages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) Sir, 3361 casual labourers are engaged in BSNL.

In so far as contract workers are concerned, as a policy BSNL does not recruit people on contract basis. However, certain jobs are outsourced through contractors. The number of workers employed by the contractors varies from time to time depending upon the nature of the job.

(b) BSNL does not maintain separate account for the wages paid to the casual labourers. However, the amount booked under "Wages" during the year 2008-09 is Rs. 33,49,44,362/-.

Contract workers are paid wages by the contractors as per Government guidelines.

(c) Yes, Sir. There is a proposal to increase wages for casual labour.

The Contractors are instructed to pay the wages as fixed by the Government. The wages are revised whenever the Government revises the same.

Employees of BSNL

2894. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any decrease in the number of employees working in BSNL;

(b) the status of existing employees against the sanctioned strength in BSNL;

(c) whether any out sourcing system is implemented in BSNL;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether Government has any policy to fill up the existing vacancies in a time bounded programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As on 24th July, 2009, the working strength of employees is 2,96,695 against the sanction strength 3,90,640.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The outsourcing system is implemented in BSNL for security/watch and ward of major telecom installations, House keeping, Mobile Call Centre services, maintenance of New Technology (NT) exchanges and Base Transceiver Station (BTS) etc.

(e) Creation and filling up of posts are continuous process. Keeping in view the fast changing business as well as technological scenario, need-based recruitments by direct recruitment as well as internal promotions are being done.

KSWAN project

2895. SHRI ANIL H. LAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Information Technology, Government of India received proposal from Karnataka Government for reassessing the adequacy of the bandwidth sanctioned for the KSWAN (Karnataka State Wide Area Network) Project; and

(b) if so, the status of the proposal thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Karnataka State Government has been communicated that the charges for bandwidth capacity requirement over and above the ceiling of 4 Mbps between State HQ and district HQ and 2 Mbps between District EQ and block HQ due to its perceived higher usage level, have to be met by the State Government from its own budget. As such, any decision of additional bandwidth and associated cost over and above the approved capacity would be decided at the level of State Wide Area Network (SWAN) Implementation Committee.

Outstanding dues

2896. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the outstanding amount of private telephone operators to BSNL have been continuously increasing over the past few years and they have not shown interest in paying the dues in times;

(b) if so, the details thereof;